



44400 Fair Lakes Court, Suite 40, Fairfax, Va., 22033
**Contact : Sharon Ferraro sharon@bitemecancer.org
703.709.2539**

Bite Me Cancer Foundation Celebrates Sixth Anniversary

Fairfax, Va., September 27- - Bite Me Cancer, a national nonprofit based in Fairfax, VA that supports teenagers with all cancers and funds thyroid cancer research is celebrating its sixth anniversary this month.

The foundation was formed in September, 2010 by Nikki Ferraro, just months after she had been diagnosed with a rare form of thyroid cancer. Ferraro, then 17, quickly realized there was a void when it came to support being offered to teens battling cancer.

“Teenage cancer patients have specific needs and interests though often they are grouped with younger children in pediatric wards or with adults who are much older,” Ferraro said. Through the foundation’s Teen Support Bag program, she set out to fill that need.

Each Bite Me Cancer Teen Support Bag includes a stress ball, a Bite Me Cancer baseball cap, a journal for writing and drawing, a water bottle, an Amazon gift card, an adult coloring book, a game book, a Bite Me Cancer car magnet and more.

Bite Me Cancer’s sixth year has perhaps been its busiest. Here are just some of the milestones the foundation has reached In the last 12 months:

- Successfully completed a rebranding that included a new foundation logo and a brand new website in March;
- Held a ribbon cutting in January for its new national headquarters located at 4400 Fair Lakes Court, Suite 40, Fairfax, Va. 22033.

- Raised \$55,000 at its third “Cancerversary” dinner in April (four times what was raised at the second annual “Cancerversary” dinner the year before).
- Named the recipient of foundation’s third thyroid cancer research grant in July and secured a majority of the funding needed to fund a fourth thyroid cancer research grant and
- Surpassed its goal of delivering 1,000 Teen Support Bags by 20 percent in 2015, delivering 1,200 bags. Now in its 4th year, the Teen Support Bag project has served more than 2,900 teenagers in nearly 75 hospitals in 33 states and in the District of Columbia. This past summer one of the group’s volunteers delivered the bags to a hospital in Anchorage, Alaska.

In addition to celebrating the foundation’s sixth anniversary, Bite Me Cancer is also actively observing Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month which also fall in September.

Thyroid cancer is the third most diagnosed cancer among children between the ages of 15-19 in the U.S., according to the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. Thyroid Cancer is also one of fastest-increasing cancer in both men and women and the 8th leading cancer in the US.

Bite Me Cancer, headquartered in Fairfax, VA, is run entirely by volunteers.

“I am overwhelmed by the growth and success of Bite Me Cancer,” Ferraro said on the foundation’s anniversary. “We have had an incredible outpouring of support from generous businesses and individuals from across the country who have donated their time, expertise and money to make Bite Me Cancer what it is today.”

“To learn more about Bite Me Cancer to or find out how you can contribute your time or money to support the foundation, please visit www.bitemecancer.org.

##